11. **Joint-stock Companies.**—44 Companies were registered during the year against 26 in 1080. The number of Companies limited by shares was 11. The number of Companies working at the end of the year rose to 106, of which 5 were maintained by voluntary contributions.

12. **Forests.**—The total area of reserved forests at the end of the year was 2,266 square miles and 276 acres, and of reserved lands 166 square miles and 20 acres. The work of forest settlement which was entrusted to the Division Peishkars was progressing very slowly as they were not able to dispose of such cases expeditiously along with their ordinary duties. A special officer was therefore appointed for this work and the work is now being pushed on vigorously.

No addition was made during the year to the area of fuel and fodder reserves. The attention of the Conservator has been drawn to the desirability of providing grazing grounds at every agricultural centre in consultation with the Revenue department. 74·5 additional acres were planted with teak.

The quantity of timber removed fell from 63,175 candies to 61,848 candies and the revenue from Rs. 6,38,000 to Rs. 6,27,000. The fall in revenue is attributed to the smaller quantity of timber worked down by the contractors and to the general depression in the timber trade due to continued famine in British India.

Revised rules for the pursuit of game in reserved forests were passed during the year. Sanction was accorded for dispensing with the monopoly system in respect of the (Kanniyelam) cardamom gardens in Todupuzha Taluk and leasing out the gardens for a period of 5 years.

The system of measuring timber by koles and candies was ordered to be discontinued and measurement in English feet and inches introduced.

A fee of 1 Rupee per ton on fuel removed from unreserved forests was introduced during the year, but owing to complaints from various quarters it was suspended for 6 months from 1st May 1906. A fee of 4 annas per ton has since been fixed.

13. **Cardamom and other produce.**—The Superintendent

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reports that advantage is being freely taken by the cardamom ryots of the facilities afforded by the new rules sanctioned last year, and the concessions allowed for settling on the hills. The grazing rules were revised during the year by which the charge per head of cattle was reduced from 3 to 2 annas up to a maximum of 500 head of cattle to each ryot. The resurvey of the cardamom gardens ordered in connection with the reduction of tax and grant of permanent tenure was completed during the year in the Poopara Division.

The receipts amounted to Rs. 1,43,014 or over Rs. 20,000 more than in 1080.

14. **Public Works.**—There were some important changes during the year in this branch of the service. In view of the early prospect of service of water from the Kodayar Reservoir to Nanjanad and with the object of placing the regulation and distribution of water on a sound basis, the separate departments for tanks and irrigation which were under the Southern Division Peishkar were transferred to the Public Works Department. The irrigation staff in the Shencottah Taluk was also similarly transferred to that department.

The Marahmut Department was reorganised and its operations are now restricted to works connected with devaswoms, choultries and other charitable institutions and palaces. These works are placed under the immediate charge of the Tahsildars under the supervision and control of the Division Peishkars, all other works having been transferred to the P. W. D. The Panivagay Department in the Capital charged principally with the execution of works connected with His Highness the Maha Rajah's and other Palaces and the temples and religious institutions inside the Fort was placed under the control of the Palace Sarvadhikariakar.

Public Works Department.—The expenditure incurred by the Chief Engineer's Department amounted to Rs. 18,13,763, of which Rs. 15,35,216 represents the expenditure on actual works. This was apportioned as follows over the usual main service heads of "communications", "buildings", &c., and the several P. W. D. Divisions.

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